

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS FROM THE SECOND DISTRICT

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, with March Madness behind us, I rise today to congratulate five high school basketball teams from my District that won Louisiana State Championships.

The first team I would like to recognize is the Madison Preparatory Academy Chargers from Baton Rouge, winners of the Class 1A Final this year. I would especially like to acknowledge Mr. Brandon Sampson, a senior guard who was named Most Outstanding Player and capped his high school career with an efficient 19-point game in which he shot 7-for-9 from the field. Mr. Joshua Anderson, a sophomore player added 18 points, four rebounds and three steals.

Next, I would like to congratulate Riverside Academy Rebels from Reserve, LA, who captured their third straight state championship with an 85–60 win in the Class 2A Championship. Mr. Jordan Andrews, named Most Outstanding Player, led Riverside (30–6) with a game-high 19 points. Mr. Herb McGee and Mr. Charvon Julien each added 17 points. Riverside is the first Louisiana boys squad to capture at least three consecutive titles since 2009.

Third are the L.B. Landry-O.P.Walker (Landry-Walker) College and Career Preparatory Charging Buccaneers from New Orleans. They have captured the boys' 4A championship title for the second consecutive season. The Charging Buccaneers also had a pair of players selected for the All-State team, including Mr. Lamar Peters, who was voted the Most Outstanding Player on the 4A boys squad. Mr. Peters averaged 19.7 points per game with 5.0 assists and was joined on the All-State list by teammate Mr. Keytaon Thompson, who scored the game-winning shot as time expired in the state title game.

The Scotlandville Hornets from Baton Rouge have reclaimed the Class 5A Championship title. Mr. Ja'Vonte Smart, a Hornet freshman earned the MVP honors after ending the night with a game-high 18 points and nine rebounds. Mr. Jordan Adebute scored 11 points in the win, including a pair of free throws which ultimately put the game away. With this victory, the Hornets wrapped up their third state title in the past four years.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the Warren Easton Eagles from New Orleans, who captured the Class 4A state championship with a 46–42 victory. In addition to this being the first girls basketball state championship in the school's history, Easton also became the first public school from Orleans Parish to win a title in girls basketball. Warren Easton was one win away from an undefeated regular season,

earning their No. 1 slot in The New Orleans Advocate's season-ending Super 10 rankings. I also would like to acknowledge Miss Kechell Figueroa and Miss Sabrina Banks for their selection onto the Girls All-State team.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR WILLIAM "BILL" BOGAARD ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community leader, William "Bill" Bogaard, on his retirement as the Mayor of the City of Pasadena. After nearly four decades in public service including his 16 years as Mayor, Bill Bogaard leaves behind a legacy of respected leadership and dedicated public service.

Bill graduated from Loyola Marymount University and then heeded his first call to public service when he bravely served to protect our country as a U.S. Air Force Captain. He went on to Michigan Law School, and in 1971, Bill and his wife Claire moved to Pasadena, where they began a lovely family with their four children.

From 1978 to 1986, Bill served on the Pasadena City Council, including a rotation into the mayoral position for a two-year term from 1984 to 1986. The City Council changed its charter and in 1999, Bill became the City's first directly-elected Mayor. He served as Mayor for the opening of the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line Light rail system and advocated for its expansion east as a Board member of the Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority. Bill also had a vision to revitalize neighborhoods surrounding the Gold Line stations, and through the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, he encouraged transit-oriented and affordable housing developments. These initiatives opened access to public transportation for thousands of residents in Pasadena and modernized several neighborhoods throughout the City.

In addition, Bill's efforts successfully kept Pasadena on the nation's map. He helped facilitate a new convention center that has attracted a wide variety of conferences to the City, exposing different industries to Pasadena and the resources of our local communities. He brought improvements such as an updated electrical system and additional aisles and accommodations to the nationally recognized Rose Bowl, which is home to the University of California-Los Angeles football team and the Rose Bowl Game. His work kept this stadium as a viable venue for so many historic games and events that have brought nationwide attention to the City each year.

In 2012, Bill's exceptional leadership abilities were recognized throughout the state, and he was elected by his fellow local elected officials as President of the League of California

Cities. The City of Pasadena and the State of California are grateful to have had such a passionate and engaged public servant. We will continue to honor his legacy of community investment and revitalization, and we are thankful for his many years of strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

ISAAC HULL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the centennial anniversary of the Isaac Hull Chapter of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Isaac Hull Chapter was organized on July 17, 1915, and will celebrate its centennial anniversary on July 17, 2015. Locally, the Chapter sponsors Good Citizenship Awards, the American History Essay contests, as well as many school, community, and veteran programs.

At this anniversary date, the Isaac Hull Chapter Officers are: Carolyn Baker Stubblefield, Regent; Julie Wood Barnes, Vice-Regent; Sarah Jane McClellan Gaston, Chaplain; Lael Nesmith Snyder, Secretary; Susan Hayes Burgess, Treasurer; Sharen Lawson Harvey, Assistant Treasurer; Carol Simcox Wood, Registrar; and Ada Joyce Quick White, Historian.

I look forward to the continued success of the Isaac Hull Chapter and I extend my best wishes on the occasion of its centennial celebration.

RECOGNIZING LEXMARK AS AN INDUSTRY LEADER IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABILITY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on Earth Day, to recognize the great accomplishments of the largest company headquartered in my District, Lexmark International, in the field of sustainability. Lexmark, one of the world's leaders in creating innovative document management solutions for the public and private sectors, has committed itself from its inception over 20 years ago to being an unsurpassed steward of the environment.

Conserving scarce resources has been the hallmark of Lexmark's approach to business. They have been leaders in driving more corporations toward better sustainability practices. They help organizations find solutions to conserve more and increase efficiency. These efforts include developing document management solutions that create less demand for

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

paper and award-winning programs for the re-manufacturing and recycling of used toner cartridges.

For these bold business plans, Lexmark has received a wide range of environmental awards. These honors are an excellent reflection of the deep-seated commitment to environmental stewardship that permeates Lexmark, from the CEO to the salesman on the front lines. Corporate Responsibility Magazine, for example, has ranked Lexmark 35th in its listing of top U.S. corporate performers on a range of indicators including environmental protection and corporate governance.

Kentucky is rightly proud of its environmental heritage. We come by the nickname the "Bluegrass State" quite honestly. It is a land of diverse environments and lush, abundant natural resources. To partner with companies like Lexmark, which do so much to conserve our environment while being a source of employment to thousands of Kentuckians, is a source of great pride.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege for me to be able to recognize the outstanding civic and environmental record compiled by my friends at Lexmark. I offer my congratulations for your tremendous successes and offer my encouragement to continue to lead in this area.

RECOGNIZING THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS FUND

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund and its dedicated service to Michigan veterans and their families.

Founded in 2006, The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund was created to support Michigan-based servicemen and women who have served and continue to serve in defense of their nation. The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, an all-volunteer effort, has served the immediate needs of the men and women of the armed forces, by helping injured American vets pay their living expenses, granting assistance to the families of the fallen, and providing other necessities these courageous individuals, and their families, may need.

This organization has been a vital resource for the veteran community throughout the state of Michigan. Since its inception nearly a decade ago, The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund has raised over \$4M through annual events and corporate and personal donations. An astounding 95 percent of all proceeds end up going directly to Michigan veterans. For these reasons and many others, I am proud to have been a supporter of the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund since its founding.

The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund is just one of many wonderful organizations that assist American veterans across our nation. We will continue to count on the tireless and selfless organizations, such as The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, for years to come, to ensure that when our service members return home they are properly and respectfully cared for.

RECOGNIZING ROYAL STUDIOS AS
THE RECORDING HOME OF THE
BILLBOARD HOT 100 #1 HIT, UP-
TOWN FUNK

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Royal Studios in Memphis, Tennessee for recording Uptown Funk, which has topped the Billboard Hot 100 for fourteen weeks and counting, marking the single as the longest-leading Billboard Hot 100 of the 2010s. Additionally, Uptown Funk's fourteenth week makes it only the Billboard's eighth single since the chart began in 1958 to hold the top spot for at least as long and places it in a seven-way tie for the second longest #1 hit in the history of the Chart. The only single among this elite group of eight to surpass Uptown Funk has held the #1 spot for sixteen weeks. The single also leads the Hot 100's Digital Songs, Radio Songs and Streaming Songs charts. In a raving endorsement of Uptown Funk's popularity, First Lady Michelle Obama with cast from the show "So You Think You Can Dance" performed a choreographed dance to the song as part of her "Let's Move!" initiative on the Ellen DeGeneres Show and at this year's White House Easter Egg Roll. The collaboration between Uptown Funk writer Mark Ronson, singer Bruno Mars and Royal Studios has swept the music scene in America and abroad, and has given listeners around the world a taste of the soulful sound that is unique to Memphis.

Uptown Funk is an example of born-and-bred Memphis musical talent. Ronson, a Grammy-winning artist and a noted producer for talents such as Adele and the late Amy Winehouse, traveled to Memphis in February 2014 looking to recruit singers for his music project. It was then that he visited Royal Studios and met owner Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell, the son of Memphis music legend and producer, Willie Mitchell, and decided to record at the iconic studio. Ronson enlisted Philip Lawrence and notable Royal Studios familiars Steve Jordan, Willie Weeks, Kevin Parker, Trombone Shorty, Mystikal and Michael Chabon to work on the single. Uptown Funk also features Bruno Mars's band member and Memphian, Kameron Whalum, who is the son of Pastor Kenneth Whalum of Olivet Baptist Church in Memphis and the nephew of Grammy-winning saxophonist Kirk Whalum.

The success of Uptown Funk is the latest chapter in the long and storied history of Royal Studios, one of the oldest music recording studios in the world. Housed originally in a movie theater built in 1915, Royal Studios was founded in 1957 and became the home of Hi Records and the Hi Rhythm Section. Since that time, numerous acclaimed artists have recorded there, including Willie Mitchell, Al Green, Ann Peebles, Bobby Blue Bland, Elton John, Robert Plant, Snoop Dogg and many others. The studio has also recorded for Hollywood films including Opportunity Knocks, Pulp Fiction, Good Will Hunting, The Book of Eli, Love Jones, Six Feet Under and other films and television shows. Uptown Funk marks Royal Studios' first #1 hit since Al Green's 1972 Let's Stay Together and the first Billboard 100 Hit out of Memphis since the 1976 hit Disco Duck by Rick Dees.

Uptown Funk continues Royal Studios' long tradition of musical excellence and showing the world what Memphis has to offer. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Memphis' Royal Studios as the recording home for the Billboard-chart topping single, Uptown Funk, and the dedicated work of Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars, Kameron Whalum, Lawrence "Boo" Mitchell and the entire Royal Studios family in producing a single with such a soulful Memphis sound that has reached listeners worldwide. Many people have noted that Uptown Funk will be one of the hottest hits this summer. If you don't believe them, just watch.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOB CORPS

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Job Corps. For five decades, Job Corps has helped millions of disadvantaged youths complete their high school education and transition into successful careers or higher education.

Since the 1960s, Job Corps has brought public agencies and private sector businesses together to help nearly 60,000 of our nation's poor and unemployed young people gain the skills necessary to build successful careers. More than 80 percent of Job Corps graduates obtain jobs, enroll in higher education or enter the military.

In the 11th District, the Cleveland Job Corps Center has been an integral part of the community for over 40 years. The first Job Corps women's center opened in Cleveland on April 9, 1965. The center's new campus opened in 2007 and now serves nearly 400 students each year, providing them with a safe and secure environment in which to further their education and gain valuable technical career skills.

Congratulations to Job Corps on 50 years of success. Its dedicated employees provide the continuity and quality training our students need to achieve their goals. The value of Job Corps is clear. Graduates are providing critical services for our economy and communities, and it is important to maintain our commitment to this exceptional program. I am excited to see the impact Job Corps will make in my district and our country in the years to come.

REMEMBERING PAUL TIPPS, OHIO LEADER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Paul Tipps of Ohio who passed away yesterday afternoon.

Paul Tipps was a great leader when political giants dominated Ohio. Paul stepped down as Chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party in 1983, and Democrats with his help held the top five statewide offices, both houses of the state legislature, a majority of the state Supreme Court, and both U.S. Senate seats.

Originally from Cincinnati, Paul graduated from the University of Dayton and served as an officer in the U.S. Army. He helped C.J. McLin of Dayton begin his long time career in the state legislature, ran for Congress himself in 1968, and served six years as Chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Party. C.J.'s daughter Rhine McLin remembers that "Paul understood people and he understood politics."

Paul considered C.J. one of his political mentors along with legendary state House Speaker Vern Riffe and U.S. Senator John Glenn. John Glenn remarked that Paul "did great work as a civic activist through so many years" and that he and Annie Glenn had no better friend.

Paul served as Trustee of Wright State University and on the Board of Advisors at Ohio State's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

Few have had as many successes as Paul and the secret to Paul's success was his ability to bring people together. I ask my colleagues to share in the memories of the extraordinary service of Paul Tipps and extend our most sincere condolences to all of Paul's family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLIFFORD BELL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Clifford Bell, my friend and former colleague and a beloved member of the Buffalo community. A public servant, Mr. Bell served for twelve years as a member of the Buffalo Common Council and chaired the Economic Development Committee.

A model citizen, Mr. Bell worked for 50 years in the dry cleaning business and then joined the Small business Development Center for the Buffalo State College. His commitment to local business does not end there, however, as he also personally led a delegation to France for the Mayor of Buffalo where he discussed international trade while representing five local businesses.

Mr. Bell's dedication to the community extends far beyond his political and economic endeavors as he also was an active member of various community groups. Mr. Bell has been a member of The Luther Church of Our Savior for over sixty years where he has held a number of various positions.

Mr. Bell has also chaired the Martin Luther King Celebration for 30 years, delivering incredible performances at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, and has been the recipient of over one hundred awards including the New York State Governor's Martin Luther King Senior's Award for his advocacy of civil rights and community work.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life of Clifford Bell. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Mr. Bell's outstanding history of service to the City of Buffalo and the people of the Western New York community.

HONORING RAY HACKETT ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NORWICH BULLETIN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary journalist in eastern Connecticut, Ray Hackett. After 40 years in journalism, the past 27 years at the Norwich Bulletin in Connecticut, Ray is retiring this month from the profession he has loved.

Ray's life journey included completing two tours for the United States Army in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and being awarded the Bronze Star when he was 19. Ray does not talk about his military service often, but his experiences have helped shape his reporting and influenced our region's conscience on the treatment of veterans returning home from war. Ray's account of the first time he visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, accompanied by his daughter, to see the names of his fallen comrades is moving and unforgettable.

Ray's first experience in journalism was spending ten years on radio, including time with Armed Forces Radio and Television. He joined the Norwich Bulletin in 1988, covering the city hall beat. Ray was promoted to serve as City Editor from 1994 to 2000 and moved to the opinion page in 2000, serving as Editorial Page Editor and focusing on politics.

As the influence of his political punditry grew, Ray became increasingly tapped as a moderator for political debates for races up and down the ticket. As a debate moderator, he became known for asking tough, thoughtful questions which gave the voters of eastern Connecticut much needed answers. He also connected candidates directly with the public by broadcasting editorial board meetings with all candidates during election cycles.

Ray's numerous honors include being named the three time GateHouse Media Editorial Writer of the Year in 2009, 2011, and 2013. He won awards in 2008, 2012, and 2013 from the Connecticut Society for Professional Journalism for editorial excellence. Additionally, Ray was awarded First Place for the Dear Governor project in 2010 from both the New England Newspaper & Press Association and the Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

In my view, one of Ray's accomplishments outshines even these honors bestowed by his colleagues—the dedicated push he made to bring U.S. Army Captain and Waterford native Arnold "Arnie" Holm's remains home to Connecticut. Captain Holm was killed in action in Vietnam in 1972, and his body never recovered. Working with Holm's friend Bill Cavalieri and his widow Margarete Holm, Ray kept up the drumbeat in the media to find Holm's remains and return them for proper burial. Decades after their passing, Holm's remains were discovered in 2011 at a helicopter crash site in the central highlands of Vietnam. In a fitting final chapter to this story, my office was notified this week that the headstone marking the grave of Holm and his two comrades was installed at Arlington National Cemetery.

Ray has said that his inspiration as a journalist has always been to "think like a reader" and "never forget, they all don't think like

you." This approach has earned Ray access to readers of all stripes in eastern Connecticut and garnered their respect, even if disagreeing with his reporting or his opinions.

When Ray Hackett steps down this month from the Norwich Bulletin, eastern Connecticut will lose an irreplaceable asset—a reporter and editor who embraced the coverage of all 64 towns in the Second Congressional District, the diversity of our urban, suburban, and rural communities, and the politics and policy issues that animate discussions in our diners and at our kitchen tables across our region. Ray leaves a significant journalistic footprint in eastern Connecticut that will not be matched for a long time. Even in an era of a 24 hour news cycle, he represents a journalistic ethos marked by integrity in pursuit of impartial truth.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ray Hackett on an illustrious career and wishing him the best in a well-earned retirement.

HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, the State of Israel has flourished to become the preeminent democracy in the Middle East and today celebrates 67 years of independence; and

Whereas, Israel has been a dedicated partner to the United States, working with our Nation and other allies to build peace collaboratively and work toward common interests and goals including the safety, security and freedom of all people around the world; and

Whereas, Our Nation must continue to protect, strengthen and promote our close friend and ally Israel as we strive to achieve greater stability in the Middle East and around the world; and

Whereas, At 67, despite tremendous challenges, Israel demonstrates continually that principle and motivation are transforming forces allowing Israel to thrive; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Honorable LEONARD LANCE, the Honorable PETER ROSKAM, the Honorable DOUG LAMBORN and the Honorable LEE ZELDIN, Members of the House of Representatives and co-chairmen of the House Republican Israel Caucus, join Israel in celebration of its Independence Day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SUSIE WILSON

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues the Honorable ANNA ESHOO and the Honorable MICHAEL HONDA, to honor the life and achievements of a distinguished member of our community, Susanne ("Susie") Wilson. She has been a long-standing leader in the Santa Clara Valley as both a public official and a community advocate. Susie served as a member of the San

Jose City Council from 1973–1978. She also served as Vice-Mayor of San Jose from 1976–1978, she was a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for District 1 from 1979–1991; serving as Chairperson in 1982, 1986, and 1990.

Susie also served as Chair of the Valley Transit District Board, and was the first woman to become President of the Association of Bay Area Governments. She was a founding member in 1974 of California Elected Women for Education and Research (CEWEAR), as well as past President and life member. In 1990, she became a member of the Valley Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors, and has also served as its President. Susie has been a champion of social justice, and one of her important accomplishments was her success as Chair of the YWCA Villa Nueva Capital Campaign. Villa Nueva is a 63-family residential housing unit for low-income families, which houses transitional and affordable housing, mostly for single mothers and their kids. To honor Susie, the building was named in her honor when it opened in 1993.

As a long-time distinguished volunteer of the YWCA, a scholarship has also been named in her honor, the “Susanne B. Wilson Scholarship Award,” which is given each year to a young woman from one of the YWCA programs. For almost 40 years, Susie Wilson has been the driving force behind the YWCA of Silicon Valley. Susie’s belief in the YWCA’s mission of empowering women and eliminating racism makes her a fearless and tireless advocate to raise support, both morally and financially, for the YWCA. Since 1999 she has been CEO of WKW Mechanical Contractors, Inc. and a sole proprietor of a governmental consulting firm called, Solutions by Wilson, which she started in 1991 after she retired from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Susie Wilson has a superb record of community service as well as service to San Jose State University. Susie served as a lecturer during the 1980’s; and in 1994, she was the first visiting professor for the “Leader in Residence” program at San Jose State University, teaching a senior seminar in the ethical issues of politics.

Susie also served as the Alumni Steering Committee for the Political Science Department, and has been a member of the Spartan Foundation since 1982, and was the Foundation’s past President from 2004–2006. She has also lent regular support to the Don Edwards lecture series. Susie was one of the founders and participants of the “Walk for Women of Sparta,” the largest fundraiser by women for women athletes, which raised over \$1 million for women athletic scholarships. She has also been active in the Spartan Foundation, a key fundraising organization of San Jose State University, and also served on the executive committee and board of directors. Susie also received the prestigious Tower Award from the university for the 1995–96 academic year.

Susie has also done work for numerous organizations, such as: the United Way, the Boy Scouts of America, and Cambrian Park United Methodist Church, the church she has attended for more than 30 years.

Susie was a founding member of the National Women’s Political Caucus, a multipartisan, multicultural grassroots organization

dedicated to increasing women’s participation in the political field, designed to achieve equality for all women. Susie is also a member of the American Association of University Women, a leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

It is evident by the many roles that Susie has taken on, that she is a vital member of the Silicon Valley community and an inspiration for women and men alike. Thus, it is our privilege to honor her as a significant person in the 19th Congressional District. We would like to take this occasion to thank Susie for her many gifts and contributions to the community of San Jose.

CONGRATULATING DR. RITA RICE
MORRIS

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Rita Rice Morris on her twelve years of service to Shawnee State University.

Dr. Morris, the longest-serving president in the storied history of Shawnee State University, is leaving behind a distinguished record of invaluable contributions to the institution, the community, and most importantly the students.

During her tenure, Dr. Morris led the university through a period of unprecedented growth in enrollment, academic programming, and student services. Not constrained by the walls of Shawnee State, she oversaw the growth in partnerships and community support in Portsmouth and the region.

Importantly, Dr. Morris touched the lives of young people by improving access to higher education at Shawnee State University. Her twelve-year presidency shepherded in a period of record-breaking growth in both enrollment and degree attainment.

As Dr. Morris departs, Shawnee State University is a pioneering institution in new and innovative programs, including game design and digital simulation.

We are all grateful for Dr. Morris’ strong leadership at Shawnee State and in southern Ohio. Again, I congratulate Dr. Rita Rice Morris on her presidency, and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

THE STRONGER ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as trade agreements have evolved to more accurately reflect international commerce, they’ve become more complex. This complexity limits U.S. ability to simultaneously oversee, implement, and enforce these agreements. For instance, in 2001, China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). Nearly 15 years later, as outlined in the 2014 Special 301 Report, Chinese laws still call for mandatory intellectual property transfers from U.S. firms to Chinese parties—laws that are inconsistent with their

WTO commitments. Similarly in Peru, the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement went into effect in 2009 and contained some of the strongest environmental protection and conservation provisions ever included in a trade pact. Implementation, however, has faced constant efforts to roll back progress.

These two examples do not necessarily demonstrate a lack of commitment to enforcing our trade agreements. They do, however, demonstrate that enforcement resources have not kept pace with the scope and complexity of our trade agreements. As a result, we have not been able to extract the full value of our agreements to the disadvantage of our businesses and workers. Looking ahead, some Trans-Pacific Partnership countries will need significant capacity building and technical assistance if they are to meet their new commercial, environmental, and labor obligations.

The STRONGER (Supplemental Trade Review, Oversight, Noncompliance and General Enforcement Resources) Act of 2015 would create an Enforcement Fund to support trade and development agencies for a narrow set of uses relating to the enforcement and implementation of our trade agreements. This fund would follow the precedents of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund, and others that rely on a small portion of related tariff revenue to fund a multi-agency effort.

During the last five fiscal years, the United States has averaged \$442 million in anti-dumping and countervailing duties (AD/CVD) that go to Treasury’s General Fund. The Enforcement Fund would receive a small fraction of our annual AD/CVDs—never to exceed \$30 million with a maximum transfer of \$15 million annually—for the enforcement and implementation of our trade agreements.

Under the legislation, certain U.S. agencies would be authorized to use Enforcement Fund resources for the enforcement of current and future FTAs, the implementation and enforcement of WTO obligations to which the U.S. is a party, capacity building focused on effective implementation and compliance with FTA commitments (with priority given to environmental and labor commitments), and the monitoring and evaluation of U.S. capacity building efforts to ensure investments are spent wisely. Importantly, none of the funds could be used for negotiating new trade agreements. The STRONGER Act would also establish a set of requirements enabling continuous oversight and improvement in our trade capacity building investments.

SAN JACINTO DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most important events in Texas history. Yesterday, on April 21, Texans celebrated the 179th anniversary of San Jacinto Day.

On that day in 1836, approximately 900 Texian and Tejano volunteers overpowered a larger professional Mexican army of conscript soldiers, after defeats at the Battles of Goliad and the Alamo. These outnumbered volunteers succeeded because they were fighting

against tyranny and for their homeland. In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

The Texas Revolution proved the bonds of freedom are stronger than ethnicity, as many Tejanos and Texans sacrificed their lives for Texas' freedom at the Battles of Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and San Jacinto. The war was not between Anglos and Hispanics, it was a struggle between all Texans and the unjust military dictatorship of Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana in Mexico City. Texans and Tejanos knew then what we know now—freedom requires sacrifice.

Texas culture places high honors on heroes willing to sacrifice their lives for a better life for their fellow man, and Texans are known around the world as an honorable people who respond to the call of duty. While our young people are answering today's calls of duty, we should not forget those who have bravely answered that call in the past.

With an understanding of where they came from, future Texans will continue to respond to calls to service, and Texans will continue to be respected and admired around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
BENJAMIN HOCHFELD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Benjamin Hochfeld, who tragically passed away on November 24, 2014 at the young age of 43. A passionate family man and public servant, Mr. Hochfeld was a prominent member of the Western New York community.

Mr. Hochfeld touched many lives of various groups in Western New York. While working for Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and the County Attorney's office, he earned the respect and became close with many public officials and employees. He was a prominent figure in Buffalo's music community and an advocate for beautifying the Elmwood Village. His reach to members of the community was many and varied.

Mr. Hochfeld had many passions in his life, but his first love was of music. From a young age Mr. Hochfeld began studying piano and guitar. His passions led him to attend The Berkley College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, where he further developed his craft. When he returned home to Buffalo, he continued his passion and played with several local bands, most notably with "Necktie Tour-niquet."

Mr. Hochfeld's passions continued with his endearment for gardening. Influenced by his loving wife Tracey, he spent hours beautifying the garden by her side. Their prized garden was featured during Buffalo's famous Garden Walk of 2014. Mr. Hochfeld hand crafted a stone fountain at the center of their garden that helped attract individuals from all over the country to view their garden. Here is an account written for the Buffalo Rising paper by a neighbor of Mr. Hochfeld.

When I first purchased my house on Norwood Avenue, almost 20 years ago, people told me that I was nuts. Upon moving in, the first thing that I noticed in the back "yard" of my house was a number of discarded purses (from purse snatchings) and gang graffiti tags.

Over the years my neighborhood has seen a drastic turnaround. It started with Elmwood Avenue rebounding, which in turn made the intertwined residential neighborhoods more desirable. Avenues and streets such as Norwood truly began to shine when home owners started to plant gardens, paint houses, and replace their front porches. Organizations such as Garden Walk contributed to the movement. Slowly but surely a healthy community began to take hold.

RECOGNIZING DR. BEVERLY
WALKER-GRIFFEA AS SHE IS IN-
STALLED AS THE SEVENTH
PRESIDENT OF MOTT COMMU-
NITY COLLEGE AND FOR HER
COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EX-
CELLENCE

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Walker-Griffiea, President of Mott Community College, for her unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student success.

Dr. Walker-Griffiea is the first female and first African American president in Mott Community College's history. A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. Walker-Griffiea holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Child Development from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Broadcasting from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Dr. Walker-Griffiea has demonstrated a passion for ensuring all students have access to quality, affordable, and effective learning experiences. As a long-time advocate for collegiate student success, Dr. Walker-Griffiea has served community college students in various capacities for twenty years. Her long history in education includes serving as Vice President of Student Affairs at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, Virginia; Dean of Student Development at Houston Community College-Central Campus; and Interim Dean of Health and Environmental Sciences at Spokane Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea for her strong leadership and unyielding commitment to academic success and our community.

HONORING MRS. JENNIFER
VIDLER AND THE 2015 WISE HON-
OREES

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, for 12 years, the greater Mesquite area has embraced the opportunity to honor many exceptional women in the community through the Women in Service and Enterprise (WISE) Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today I would like to honor this year's award recipient, Mrs. Jennifer Vidler, who is a shining example of a committed community advocate and servant. I would also like to recognize honorees Beth Gaddis, Debbie Jacobson, and Linda Pimentel for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Jennifer Vidler has lived in Mesquite most of her life. She is a graduate of North Mesquite High School and proudly served in the United States Air Force as a Specialist. Afterwards, she studied cosmetology and graduated with a perfect score through the state board of exam. Her salon has been a Chamber of Commerce member for 15 years, and voted best salon several times. Jennifer has been a member and chairwoman for the Board of Adjustments for six years and now she is a Planning and Zoning Commissioner. She has been Vice President and then President of Old Town Mesquite/Community Heart of Mesquite. For the last nine years Jennifer has worked very hard with the fundraising, planning, and implementing of Kid Fish and Pumpkin Fest. For many years Jennifer led the decorations for Christmas on the Square by herself, before a few people came to help. She has worked hard to bring a Farmers Market to Mesquite, and this year will be the 2nd Annual Farmers Market on the Square. Jennifer says, "I truly love Mesquite and think it can only be even better."

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service, community involvement and dedication to enterprise continue to inspire younger generations.

Today, I would like to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community, state, and country a better place.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE DENVER RE-
GIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERN-
MENTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of Colorado's most respected and valued organizations, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), on its 60th anniversary. Through collaborative cooperation, DRCOG speaks and leads with one voice while serving nine counties and 47 municipalities, and it stands as one of the three oldest

Councils of Government in the country. DRCOG serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Denver metropolitan region, skillfully serving nearly three million citizens in three broad-based areas: Regional Growth and Development, Transportation & Personal Mobility, and Aging & Disability Resources.

Currently, local governments are represented in a cooperative and comprehensive multi-modal transportation planning process for the entire region while incorporating state and federal practices and regulations. The Denver Regional Council's Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC) ensures people with mobility challenges have access to the community by increasing, enhancing, sharing, and coordinating regional transportation services and resources with a vision of mobility and access for all.

DRCOG's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) has worked with the Department of Housing and Urban Development while leveraging the multi-billion dollar FasTracks transit system expansion already in place. The SCI just concluded its collaborative partnership of governmental, public and private-sector organizations to support the planning and implementation of its ideas to foster greater access to more economically diverse, multi-modal communities that will put less strain on our natural resources.

Now in its 40th year as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA), DRCOG helps people live independently as long as possible in their own homes and communities. DRCOG contracts with community-based agencies to provide a broad continuum of services addressing the needs of the region's booming population of older adults and those living with disabilities. In coordination with other stakeholders, the AAA helps ensure that community leaders are aware of the needs of older adults, the benefits of community-based services, and the costs to taxpayers of failing to address needs of seniors in the region.

DRCOG has a long list of accomplishments shaping the region in a way that benefits us all. From helping transition the Valley Highway to what we know today as I-25, including the T-Rex project, to the discussion about where to relocate Stapleton Airport—which we know now as Denver International Airport. DRCOG helped establish the Mile High Compact to help shape growth in the metro area in an intelligent manner and designed mechanisms to protect the region's air quality through the oversight of the Regional Air Quality Council. From funding major highway and transit projects in the region to helping with the formation of RTD, DRCOG has been involved with seemingly every major regional issue and project.

Please join me in commending DRCOG. As their motto says, they make life better.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
SANES RODRIGUEZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, April 19th, marked the anniversary of the death of David Sanes Rodriguez. He was a ci-

vilian security guard, employed by the U.S. Navy, who died 16 years ago when two errant bombs were dropped from a fighter jet near his observation post on Vieques, Puerto Rico.

His tragic death spurred protests throughout Puerto Rico and the United States, and ultimately led to the halting of bombing on the island where countless shells and chemicals were dropped.

It is unconscionable that the American government could wreak such havoc on such pristine lands for so long. It is unimaginable that it would ignore the pleas of its own citizens for decades as they called for an end to the bombing of their land.

We must ensure that Sanes Rodriguez is not forgotten, and neither is the unnecessary destruction of vast parts of Vieques during the more than 60 years of live-fire bombing practice on the island.

As we also celebrate Earth Day this week, we must acknowledge another grim reality: decades of destructive shelling turned Vieques into one of the most toxic places on the planet. In the 16 years since Sanes Rodriguez was killed, lingering environmental and health concerns due to the bombings are still not being fully addressed.

Tens of thousands of bombs and toxic chemicals were dropped on Vieques during U.S. Navy training exercises. Some of those munitions contained depleted uranium and napalm. Contamination concerns led the Environmental Protection Agency to list the former Vieques training area as a Superfund site—basically designating it as a toxic dump.

I have grilled the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) about the alarming rate of cancer and other serious health conditions experienced by Viequesens as a result of the environmental damage caused by decades of military bombing. Amazingly, the agency has reported that it could not find “credible scientific evidence” to support a link between a generation of military pollutants and Vieques residents' poor health trends.

In March of 2013, I visited Vieques to witness for myself the consequences of decades of shelling and the impact it has had on the island. I met with citizens whose health has been harmed by living near the former bombing range. The people of Vieques live every day with the legacy of the environmental destruction that was wreaked upon their land.

Sanes Rodriguez's death, while tragic and unnecessary, was not meaningless. It opened the eyes of millions of Americans to the harm being inflicted upon Vieques. Our annual remembrance of his tragic death now serves another noble cause: environmental justice for Vieques.

On this important date for the people of Vieques, and as the world celebrates Earth Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in making sure this beautiful island is restored. I urge my colleagues to join me in addressing the health problems that six decades of bombings have imposed upon the residents who still call Vieques home.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD T. “FITZY”
FITZPATRICK OF BOSTON, MA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edward T. “Fitzzy” Fitzpatrick, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2222 of Boston, MA, and to commend him for over fifty years of dedicated service to the working men and women of this community.

The son of Joseph and Ann Fitzpatrick of Mattapan, Edward was born in Boston and lived in Mattapan. Edward attended St. Margaret's School in Dorchester, MA and graduated from Hyde Park High School. During high school and after graduation, Ed began his career at New England Telephone. His career at New England Telephone was put on hold while he honorably and bravely served in Vietnam.

Upon completion of his distinguished service to our country, Ed continued working for New England Telephone and began to gain the respect and admiration of his co-workers while fighting for their rights on the job. His leadership skills were evident and he was instrumental in the achievements of the IBTW and helped form the foundation for the move from the independent IBTW to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the charter of Local 2222. Local 2222 became well-known in the local labor movement and in political circles in Boston's working-class neighborhoods.

Ed held many positions in Local 2222 for many years including shop steward, chief steward, vice president and business agent. He became president of the Local in 1991 and held that position for 24 years until his retirement in March of 2015.

He is well-known for fiercely leading Local 2222 and 60,000 workers through a four month strike in 1989 that was one of the largest and most contentious union/management battles in decades. From the back of a pickup truck with a loudspeaker, Ed motivated thousands to stand strong on the picket line and to battle for their rights and their families through one of the most successful strikes in U.S. history with his hallmark saying “Hang Tough.” The striking workers in 1989 successfully resisted management demands and won health care coverage for all telephone workers in Boston.

Aside from being a fierce union leader, Ed is mostly known for his incredible dedication to those afflicted by drug and alcohol addiction. A legendary figure in Local 2222's “Membership Assistance” program, Ed's personal interventions and time has saved the lives, marriages, and phone company careers of countless workers caught in the grip of substance abuse. He has devoted his own personal time, day and night, to families and individuals struggling with addiction. He believes the most valuable thing you can give to another human being is your time and Fitzzy makes the time for anyone in need. He not only works with the members of his union and their families but also spends three nights a week visiting and bringing the message of hope to the incarcerated in three local prisons.

Mr. Speaker, Fitz is known for his diligent service to others from all walks of life. Ed was a recipient of the Caring Hearts Award from The Gavin Foundation in South Boston. He was also recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Correction at the State House for his tireless years of service to incarcerated individuals.

Ed has had the good fortune to be married to his wife, Joanne for 45 years; they are the proud parents of three children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Edward T. "Fitz" Fitzpatrick's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to his country, his community and to the working men and women of the Greater Boston area.

RECOGNIZING BOY SCOUT TROOP 6

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Boy Scout Troop 6 as they achieve the distinguished Centennial celebration in the storied history of scouting in America. Formed in 1915, Troop 6 is the oldest continuously operating scout troop in the Dan Beard Council, and now marks its 100th year.

Over those 100 years, scouting values have played an important role in our nation's history, contributing to the character development of millions of youth.

Leading boys from the first steps of Tenderfoot through the rank of Eagle Scout, through merit badges, summer camps, and service projects, Troop 6 has instilled character and moral compass in countless young men over its 100 years.

America and Ohio benefit from skills and values that scouting instills in our young men including self-reliance, a duty to God and country, appreciation of the outdoors, and committed citizenship. Our nation could benefit from more people taking the Scout Law to heart.

Troop 6 has shown a dedicated commitment to our community and nation, leading numerous service projects and supporting our military members.

Southwest Ohio is privileged to have such a distinguished scout troop. I look forward to Troop 6's next 100 years as they continue their legacy of service.

RECOGNIZING BILL AND DOROTHY BIZZINI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill and Dorothy Bizzini as the recipients of the Merced College Foundation's 2015 President's Medallion Award. Bill and Dorothy Bizzini have served their community with distinction, volunteering their time and donating to a wide range of causes and organi-

zations in and around Merced County, California.

Bill and Dorothy Bizzini will have been married for 60 years in June and are the proud parents of four successful children. Bill and Dorothy graduated from Gustine High School. Dorothy earned a Registered Nursing Diploma from Sacramento Junior College and a B.A. in Nursing Education from CSU Sacramento. Bill majored in Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. Bill and Dorothy were the first in their families to earn college degrees. They have owned and operated the Atwater Veterinary Clinic, providing quality medical care for both large and small animals, thus serving the needs of the area's farmers, ranchers, and community members since 1960.

Bill and Dorothy Bizzini have contributed their volunteer time by serving on many local, state, and national professional organizations and boards. Among these organizations are the Merced College Board of Trustees, the UC Merced Foundation, CSU Stanislaus Foundation, Atwater Chamber of Commerce, Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, California Veterinary Medical Association, Atwater Methodist Church, Soroptimist Club of Atwater, Castle Air Force Base Community Council and Bloss Memorial Hospital Board of Directors.

The Bizzini's have always promoted education throughout their lives. In 2004 the Classroom Building at California State University Stanislaus was renamed Dorothy and Bill Bizzini Hall after a pledge of \$1.35 million. Dorothy is currently on the University of California Merced Foundation's Board of Trustees and Bill served until 2012. Bill and Dorothy went to college on scholarships and they clearly understand how important it is to help others achieve a higher education.

Bill and Dorothy have inspired many others to follow their example of service above self, being active members of Rotary International and have attended 14 Rotary International Conventions. They have made numerous humanitarian trips to foreign countries, providing health services to families and children in Guatemala, Ghana, Venezuela, Mexico, El Salvador, Thailand and many other countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the lifetime of commitment that Bill and Dorothy have given to the Merced County community. They are richly deserving of all honor and praise associated with the Merced College Foundation's President's Medallion.

STRENGTHENING TRADE-RELATED PROTECTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, when foreign countries selectively enforce their environmental rules to advantage their own companies, it undercuts U.S. companies and it harms the environment. Our trade negotiators should have the tools they need to adequately enforce environmental commitments.

The problem is proliferating. A survey conducted this year by the American Chamber of Commerce in China found that 57 percent—a multi-point increase from last year—of U.S.

companies operating in China believed they were being unfairly targeted compared to their local competition. The U.S. should have the tools to correct such disadvantages. The Green 301 Act would be an important tool in this regard.

The Green 301 Act strengthens Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to strengthen the U.S. Trade Representative's ability to ensure that the law is applied equally, that bad actors are held accountable, and that good actors are not penalized for following the rules. By making sure U.S. companies aren't forced to play by a different and more costly set of rules abroad, we can bolster environmental protections and best practices, as well as U.S. exports. The selective enforcement of environmental laws damages both trade and our environment.

Specifically, the Green 301 Act would allow the U.S. to impose penalties on countries that fail to effectively enforce their environmental laws, that waived or otherwise derogated from their environmental laws, that fail to provide for judicial proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of their environmental laws, that fail to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of their environmental laws, or that fail to effectively implement environmental commitments they agreed to with the United States.

Additionally, Section 301 enables outside groups to petition USTR to take action. Any outside organization may file a Section 301 request with USTR, which must then consult with the petitioners, and report back within 45 days on whether they will or won't act on the petition and why or why not. The Green 301 Act would ensure this process is expanded to environmental violations.

U.S. trade agreements attempt to limit these unfair double standards. Dozens of countries, however, fall outside our trade commitments. To level the playing field in these countries, and to stop a race to the bottom, Congress included Section 301 in the Trade Act of 1974. This section authorizes the U.S. to take action to remove "any act, policy, or practice of a foreign government that . . . is unjustified, unreasonable, or discriminatory, and that burdens or restricts U.S. commerce." Congress later expanded Section 301 to deal specifically with IP issues, and later amended it to address labor standards. It is time that Congress expand it again to meet environmental challenges.

IN HONOR OF DR. NORMAN C. FRANCIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an esteemed educator and outstanding civic leader, Dr. Norman C. Francis. As the nation's longest-serving university president, Dr. Francis will be retiring after 47 remarkable years as president of Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana. A reception hosted by the Honorable Mary Landrieu and the Honorable Alexis Herman will be held in his honor on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Washington, DC.

Born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, Dr. Francis, the son of a barber and a home-maker, first set foot on the campus of Xavier University as a student in 1948 and immediately stood out among his peers as a leader in all areas of academic excellence. Fore-shadowing the legacy he would later build on this very campus, his fellow classmates elected him class president each year of his undergraduate study and student body president his senior year. When he graduated with honors in 1952, Dr. Francis left Xavier knowing that he would return someday.

Later that year, Dr. Francis became the first African American to attend Loyola Law School in New Orleans. After graduating in 1955, he served our country with honor and distinction in the U.S. Army's Third Armored Division. After his honorable discharge, Dr. Francis worked on special assignment with the U.S. Attorney General to help desegregate federal agencies.

Following his completion of this assignment, Dr. Francis found himself at a crossroads. He had a promising legal career ahead of him yet he yearned to be of service in higher education. Choosing the latter, where he thought his talents could be of greater use, Dr. Francis returned to his alma mater, becoming dean of men in 1957. Rising quickly through the ranks, he became the first African American and first layman to serve as president of Xavier University in 1968.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Francis has revolutionized Xavier University in countless ways during his 47-year tenure as president. Under his leadership, the university's enrollment has more than doubled, its endowment has grown eight-fold, and its campus has expanded from only five buildings to sixteen buildings on more than sixty acres.

These changes are also reflected in the young leaders and model graduates that Xavier continues to produce. Xavier University is recognized as the leading producer of African American undergraduates who go on to complete medical school and one of the top three producers of African American Doctor of Pharmacy degree recipients. Xavier ranks first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in biology and life sciences, chemistry, physics, and pharmacy.

Dr. Francis' sphere of influence has not been confined to the campus limits of Xavier University. A nationally recognized figure, Dr. Francis has served in advisory roles to eight U.S. presidents on education and civil rights issues. He has also served on 54 boards and commissions. He has received 42 honorary degrees from other universities and numerous awards and commendations in recognition of his leadership in higher education as well as his selfless service to his community and to our nation. In 2006, then-President George W. Bush honored Dr. Francis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Norman C. Francis for his significant contributions to our nation and for his 47 outstanding years as President of Xavier University of Louisiana. His visionary leadership has helped transform this university for the better to provide students with a fulfilling college experience, a quality education focusing on academic excellence, and the necessary tools with which to live successful and productive lives.

HONORING CHIEF THOMAS LAWS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Thomas Laws, the Fire Chief of Granite Falls, North Carolina. On May 1, 2015, Chief Laws will retire after thirty-two years of successful, dedicated service.

Chief Laws began his service in Granite Falls in 1982 as a firefighter. Just three years later, he was promoted to Chief. During his tenure, Chief Laws maintained a standard of excellence in firefighting equipment, tactics, and training. He was also instrumental in obtaining several program grants that have made the department what it is today. Thanks in large part to Chief Laws' dedication, the local fire department in Granite Falls consistently handled emergencies in a timely and efficient manner.

The exemplary leadership of Chief Laws is something that all of us can admire and respect. As such, I am proud to honor Fire Chief Thomas Laws for his faithful service to the people of Granite Falls and congratulate him on his retirement.

CELEBRATING ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC. GREAT LAKES REGION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 95 years of service by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and to wish them well as they begin their 81st Annual Great Lakes Regional Leadership Conference tomorrow in Rosemont, Illinois.

The conference, led by Great Lakes Regional Director Michelle Porter Norman, will capture the essence of all that Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated embodies . . . to be "A Community Conscious, Action Oriented Organization". Their National Programs, including Z-HOPE, Stork's Nest and Elder Care, provide necessary assistance to members of our communities across the globe, to address societal ills, poverty, and health concerns of the day. It is expected to draw more than 700 members from across seven states—Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920 at Howard University in Washington, DC, in the belief that the social nature of Sorority life should not overshadow the real mission of progressive organizations. The international organization's more than 100,000 initiated members and affiliates have given millions of volunteer hours to educate the public, provide scholarships, support organized charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. Zeta Phi Beta has more than 800 chapters in the United States, Japan, Germany, England, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, the Caribbean and most recently Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

I send a sincere "thank you" to Zeta Phi Beta for your dedication to promoting aca-

demic excellence and instilling in your members a lifelong commitment to service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SAUNDRA H. GLOVER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Sandra H. Glover on the occasion of her retirement from the University of South Carolina. Serving as Associate Dean for Health Disparities and Social Justice of the Arnold School of Public Health and Director of the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD), Dr. Glover has devoted her life to fighting inequity in health status and health care.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said at the 1966 National Convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." I profoundly agree with that view. While many bemoan the poor health status of many Americans and their lack of access to care, Dr. Glover spent decades working to correct this shocking and inhumane injustice.

In her fight to eliminate health disparities, Dr. Glover has brought to bear a plethora of weapons. She has conducted research, winning millions of dollars in grants and leading efforts to create the Health Disparities Research Network. She has been a prolific author, publishing dozens of articles in academic journals. She has been an educator, working to address the dearth of minority public health professionals and earning the South Carolina Rural Health Association's Excellence in Education Award. She has been a community leader, serving on the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) commissioner's health disparities advisory board and partnering with DHEC's Office of Minority Health on a number of statewide initiatives. In 2010, she was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute 21st Century Council, leading the health policy subcommittee.

In all of these endeavors, Dr. Glover has tackled the complicated problem of health disparities from a wide array of angles. Her publications have covered topics as diverse as HIV, mental health, diabetes, asthma, access to care, and health services delivery. IPEHD, under her directorship, has been engaged in research and community activities that address HIV, cervical cancer, head and neck cancers, prostate cancer, obesity, mental health, autoimmune diseases, musculoskeletal injuries, and environmental health. In all of her work, Dr. Glover has focused on identifying and developing partnerships, engaging vulnerable and underserved communities in research, prevention and intervention activities, and training underrepresented minorities in biomedical and behavioral research.

I am particularly grateful for Dr. Glover's role in organizing the James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture Series. She has taken the lead in developing this annual lecture series to bring together academicians, clinicians, and community partners to share research and best practices on promoting health equity.

Recognizing the importance of turning knowledge into action, Dr. Glover has ensured that this lecture series include follow-up dialogue sessions to identify community-level action steps to address racial, ethnic, and residence-based disparities in HIV and cancer in South Carolina and across the country. The success and growth of these programs would not have been possible without Dr. Glover's leadership.

With all of these accomplishments, it is no surprise that Dr. Glover has garnered numerous honors and awards over the years. The University of South Carolina honored her with the Outstanding Black Alumni Award in 2004 and the Martin Luther King Faculty Social Justice Award for Exemplary Teaching, Research, and Service in 2010. She has also received national acclaim, winning the National Council of Negro Women's Living the Legacy Award in 2011, the Urban League's 2012 Tower Award for contributions to the betterment of humanity, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's MLK Community Service Award in 2013. We in South Carolina have been fortunate to have such a distinguished figure serving our community for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Glover on her well-deserved retirement. I wish her good health and Godspeed.

INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2015, along with additional cosponsors. This legislation represents a comprehensive federal commitment to healing the rift caused by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at-large. This legislation is designed to enforce the constitutional right to equal protection of the laws by changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice of profiling.

This legislation can be traced back to the data collection efforts of the late 1990's that were designed to determine whether racial profiling was a fact rather than an urban legend. Based upon the work around that legislation, by September 11, 2001, there was significant empirical evidence and wide agreement among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling was a tragic fact of life in the minority community and that the Federal government should take action to end the practice.

Moreover, many in the law enforcement community have also acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin had eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities.

During our 112th Congress Judiciary Committee hearing on racial profiling, we approached the issue from the perspective of "smart policing" and what makes sense in a time of austerity for protecting public safety. I believe that it became clear during the hearing that enough agreement exists to allow us to re-open the bipartisan dialogue on racial

profiling commenced by President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft.

Despite the fact that the majority of law enforcement officers perform their duties professionally and without bias—and we value their service highly—the specter of racial profiling has contaminated the relationship between the police and minority communities to such a degree that federal action is justified to begin addressing the issue. While the Department of Justice reissued a series of guidelines in December 2014 which were designed to end the practice of racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies, these measures still do not reach the vast majority of racial profiling complaints arising from the routine activities of state and local law enforcement agencies.

Further, the guidelines provide no enforcement mechanism or methods for identifying law enforcement agencies not in compliance and, therefore, fail to resolve the racial profiling problem nationwide. In this instance, there is no substitute for comprehensive federal anti-profiling legislation.

The End Racial Profiling Act is designed to eliminate the well documented problem of racial, ethnic, religious, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and national origin profiling. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. Second, the bill mandates that training on racial profiling issues as part of Federal law enforcement training, the collection of data on all routine or spontaneous investigatory activities that is to be submitted through a standardized form to the Department of Justice.

Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

Recent events in the wake of Ferguson, Missouri demonstrate that racial profiling remains a divisive issue in communities across the nation that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. The deaths of Walter L. Scott—arising from a traffic stop—Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Antonio Zambrano-Montes—all at the hands of police officers—highlight the links between the issues of race and reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct. Ultimately, these men are tragic examples of the risk of being victimized by a perception of criminality simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin. These individuals were denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American.

Decades ago, in the face of shocking violence, the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation made it clear that race should not affect the treatment of an individual American under the law. I believe that thousands of pedestrian and traffic stops of innocent minorities and needless killings or use of excessive force by the police call for a similar federal response. The practice of using race or other characteristics as a proxy for criminality by law enforcement seriously undermines the progress we have made toward achieving equality under the law. Please join me in supporting this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Job Corps Program. With Westover Job Corps Center in Chicopee, Massachusetts within my district, I would like to say a few words on the successes that Job Corps have had over their distinguished history.

The Job Corps Program was created as a collaboration between the public and private sectors to help poor and unemployed young people gain the skills to enter the job market. Job Corps' educational model allows academic and vocational professionals to create self-paced work plans for their students. With their residential campuses, counselors, instructors, and advisors work with their students on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis to develop the life skills, financial literacy, and responsible citizenship that students require for the future. 80 percent of all Job Corps graduates are able to find employment, move onto higher education, or serve their nation in the Armed Forces. Over their 50 year history, more than 3 million jobless and underemployed people have benefitted from the unique opportunity that Job Corps offers.

Mr. Speaker, Job Corps remains a life-changing resource for thousands of at-risk, jobless, and disenfranchised youths around the country. I have personally seen the improvements that have been made to students' lives at Westover Job Corps Center over my tenure in Congress. I wish them continued success as they continue their great work in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITGO CORPUS CHRISTI REFINERY

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery. Since 1935, CITGO has been a dedicated leader to the City of Corpus Christi and to the people of Texas.

Driven by commitment to its core values of integrity, respect, and fairness, CITGO has been a shining steward and model example of the community. As a good corporate neighbor who has provided thousands of jobs and innumerable charitable contributions and volunteer work to the people of Corpus Christi, I am very proud to have CITGO here in the 27th District of Texas.

As a company rightly focused on people and opportunity, I encourage us all to take time today on April 15, 2015 to celebrate eight decades of CITGO's commitment to our community and to wish the Corpus Christi Refinery nothing but the best in the upcoming century.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
JAMES CALVIN HARRIS, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God who has been a longstanding source of inspiration, spiritual guidance, and moral leadership to the Columbus, Georgia community, the Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr. After sixty-four remarkable years of serving as Pastor of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Rev. Harris will be retiring this month. A celebration of his well-deserved retirement will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

James Calvin Harris was born in Lee County, Georgia on April 7, 1925 to Elijah and Viola Harris as one of seven children. In 1944, at the age of 18, he began serving our country with courage and distinction in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war, Mr. Harris moved to Chicago and worked as a baker and dishwasher but later returned to Georgia to pursue his education. He attended Albany State University and then studied at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee.

His first church membership was St. Mathew Baptist Church in Lee County, which was pastored at the time by the late Reverend Allen A. Green. It was by this same pastor that Rev. Harris was licensed to the ministry on July 9, 1939 and ordained as a minister on August 10, 1949.

Early on in his career, he pastored at several churches across Georgia, sharing his passion for the teachings of Christ. Following the path that God set out for him, Rev. Harris eventually came to call Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus his home. When he began preaching at the church, it was a small wooden building with only 100 members. Thanks to his dedication and enthusiasm, Rev. Harris has been able to build the Church's membership to over 1,000 and make several extensive renovations and additions.

Rev. Harris has always been popular with churchgoers because of the energy he brings to his sermons. Known by many as the "singing and preaching" pastor, Rev. Harris even authored and recorded an original song, "God is a Battle Axe." During the Civil Rights Movement, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. often asked him to perform the song to offer encouragement at mass meetings. A charismatic evangelical leader and pioneer, Rev. Harris' spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Harris has worked tirelessly to promote Christian values and put them into action in his community. Throughout his career, Rev. Harris has played a leading role in many religious-affiliated and community-based organizations. He has also been honored with various awards and commendations too numerous to list here.

Rev. Harris has accomplished many things in his life but none of these would have been possible without the grace of God and his lov-

ing wife, Maggie, who met her eternal reward in 2012 after sixty-seven years of marriage; their seven children, one of whom is deceased; eleven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. On a personal note, I have truly been blessed by Rev. Harris' sage counsel and enduring friendship over the many years I have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr. for sixty-four wonderful years of leadership of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, over seventy-five remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church, and to humankind.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS AWARDS 2015

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, crime victims are not statistics.

They are real people with real stories who have had something bad happen to them.

As a former judge, I used to see victims in my courtroom every day.

Unfortunately, too often victims are left out of the criminal justice process.

They are also many times overlooked and forgotten in the legislative process.

When I came to Congress, victims did not have an advocate group of lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

That is why Congressman JIM COSTA, a Democrat from California, and I, a Republican from Texas, founded the Victims' Rights Caucus.

Supporting crime victims is a bipartisan issue.

This week is National Crime Victims' Rights week, and the Victims' Rights Caucus will recognize those tenacious groups and individuals whose life work is to support victims.

I was proud to nominate Truckers Against Trafficking for the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for Public Awareness.

Much like the award's namesake, Truckers Against Trafficking has pioneered efforts in the victims' rights community.

Truckers Against Trafficking is a traveling nonprofit group that works to educate and raise awareness for trafficking in the trucking industry.

These truckers know what signs to look for in a trafficking victim and are proactive in their efforts to rescue these victims from their trafficker.

Congressman JIM COSTA (CA-16) recognized community leader Sergeant Jeff Kertson for the Allied Professional Award.

Sergeant Kertson oversees several units for the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

This includes the domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, sex offender registration, missing persons/runaways units, as well as a predator program and task force.

Sergeant Kertson really goes above and beyond to make victim services a priority to ensure a safer Fresno community.

The Ed Stout Memorial Award honors the legacy of the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the Na-

tion's oldest three victims' assistance organizations.

Ms. Mary Travers Murphy, nominated by Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS (NY-26), has been a champion for domestic violence victims in her community.

Her work as the Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Erie County (FJCEC) raising funds for domestic violence victims has resulted in the opening of two suburban satellite FJCEC centers in Erie County.

Her efforts have strengthened her Erie community.

Another community leader that deserves recognition is Ms. Kerri True-Funk.

She was nominated for the Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation by Congressman RODNEY DAVIS (IL-13).

Kerri is the Executive Director of Rape Advocacy, Counseling and Education Services (RACES).

Kerri has championed efforts of prevention and education, which makes her the perfect candidate for the Lois Haight Award, working to prevent crime before it happens.

Kerri deserves to be honored for her work with RACES—reducing the occurrence of sexual assault among individuals with disabilities through empowerment education.

Victim advocates are wonderful people.

Many of them I have met over the years are even more special because they have used their personal experience to help others.

That is what the recipient of the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award did.

William Kellibrew, nominated by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (DC), had a traumatic past but he chose to fight back.

He is the founder of the William Kellibrew Foundation (WKF), a community-driven partnership that advocates on breaking the cycles of violence and poverty.

The WKF provides support networks for victims while they rebuild their lives.

People like William are living examples of how survivors can use their experiences to empower others.

The Victims' Rights Caucus is also recognizing Robin Smith, the founder of Video Action.

Video Action produces training instructional videos to educate victim advocates.

Robin reaches a vast audience through her videos which has spread awareness about victims issues to victim advocates.

Every single one of these recipients are warriors fighting to protect innocent victims and prevent further crimes.

We thank them for what they do for not only their communities, but for our nation.

Restoring the lives of victims is not easy work, but it's the Lord's work, saving people one at a time.

And that is just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, I was at home in Wisconsin due to an unexpected family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways: on roll call no. 162 (H. Con. Res. 25)—

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition—Yea.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS JOONDEPH,
DUNCAN YOST, GARRETT KRAL,
AND MITCHELL MONREAL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Joondeph, Duncan Yost, Garrett Kral, and Mitchell Monreal for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the Spring 2015 session of Congress.

The work of these young men has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their work next year with various organizations in both Colorado and Washington. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Chris Joondeph, Duncan Yost, Garrett Kral, and Mitchell Monreal for their service this spring.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE D'AGOSTINO
RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today in my home town of Winter Park, Florida, we will lay to rest a Central Florida community leader and American Patriot, Jeanne D'Agostino Rodriguez.

It has been my privilege to know Jeanne and her family for more than four decades, and it has been my honor to call her my friend. She was a Republican stalwart, and a successful businesswoman with an untiring record of community service. We shared mutual passions for good government, family and faith and an appreciation of our Italian heritage.

The Rodriguez and D'Agostino families have been leading restaurateurs in Central Florida, beginning with their restaurant, La Cantina, which they sold and created the renowned Villa Nova restaurant which, over the years, received numerous culinary awards and was a Winter Park landmark.

Jeanne, who was preceded in death by her beloved husband John, and two brothers, was a respected business woman and community activist. In Central Florida politics, Jeanne was the Grand Dame of the Republican Party. She worked tirelessly to build the GOP in its lean beginning years in Florida and served in county and state Republican leadership positions. She was an early champion behind successful

campaigns of Republican leaders including United States Senator Paula Hawkins and President Ronald Reagan. Some of Jeanne's many charitable endeavors were highlighted by her support for the Morning Star School and Bishop Grady Villas.

Jeanne is survived by her family who she loved so dearly, including her children: Mark Rodriguez and wife Kim; John Rodriguez and wife Vicki; her sisters, Florence Ross and Anna Belitz Powers; her grandchildren: Jordan, Jared, Jenna, Jillian, Rebecca and Elizabeth and by her great granddaughter Aylin.

Most of all, my friend Jeanne Rodriguez was an American Patriot. She loved our country and her family and was devoted in her Catholic faith.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a great Central Floridian and American. I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing Jeanne's memory as she is laid to rest today in Palm Cemetery in Winter Park, Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING
FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT OF 2015

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, to this day we, as a country, are still working through the devastating effects of the foreclosure crisis. This avoidable tragedy was caused in part by predatory lenders taking advantage of homebuyers who had little or no understanding of the purchases they were making. That is why, in recognition of Financial Literacy Month, I introduced legislation entitled, "the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015." This bill would give first-time homebuyers who complete a Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD-certified housing counseling course a discount on their Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance premiums of 25 basis points (or 0.25 percent).

For many Americans, owning a home is the cornerstone of achieving the American Dream. Homeownership not only benefits the homeowner's family and surrounding community, it is also linked to improved health and school performance for children. Additionally, FHA provides the gateway to affordable housing for these individuals and families. However, for many prospective first-time homeowners, the process of purchasing real estate may be confusing and daunting and may leave uninformed buyers victims of unaffordable or predatory loans.

The Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015 would motivate first-time homebuyers to seek vital pre-purchase housing counseling to alleviate the confusion and fears associated with purchasing real estate. These housing counseling programs help prospective homebuyers understand their financing and down-payment options, evaluate their readiness for a home purchase and navigate what sometimes may be a confusing and difficult process. In fact, studies have shown that homebuyers who receive pre-purchase housing counseling courses are nearly one-third less likely to fall behind on their mortgage, and that housing counseling can improve prospective borrowers' access to affordable, prudent mortgage loans.

These programs are so important that just last week, HUD awarded more than \$36 million in housing counseling grants to hundreds of national, regional and local organizations to help families and individuals with their housing needs and to prevent future foreclosures. Consequently, an additional benefit of housing counseling is a reduction in delinquencies or default by better-informed first-time homebuyers. The Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015 would encourage first-time homebuyers to take advantage of these critical counseling resources that can increase their financial literacy skills and capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that first-time homebuyers have the knowledge and tools necessary to be successful homeowners is an objective that we can all share. I would like to thank the Members of Congress who signed on as original co-sponsors of this bipartisan bill, including the Democratic and Republican Co-Chairs of the Financial Literacy Caucus, and urge my colleagues to join in our efforts to increase financial literacy by adding their names to the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS ABOLITION
AND ECONOMIC AND ENERGY
CONVERSION ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, on Earth Day, I am introducing the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2015, a version of which I have introduced since 1994, after working with the District of Columbia residents who were responsible for the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion ballot initiative passed by D.C. voters in 1993. This version of the bill now requires the United States to immediately begin negotiating an international agreement to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons, to provide for strict control of fissile material and radioactive waste, and to use nuclear-free energy.

The bill continues to provide that the funds used for nuclear weapons programs be redirected to human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security, restoring the environment, and creating carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. This conversion to a peace economy would occur when the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun elimination under international treaty or other legal agreement.

The bill is particularly timely as countries of the world meet at the United Nations to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the possibility of a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

Our country still has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the back burner. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses the largest nuclear weapons arsenal, I urge support for my bill to help the United States reestablish our moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons for urgent domestic needs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on April 13, 2015, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 145–147. Had I been present I would have voted “nay” on Roll Call Votes No. 145 and 146. I would have voted “yea” on 147.

Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2015, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 148–153. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call

Votes No. 150 and 153. I would have voted “nay” on Roll Call Votes No. 148, 149, 151 and 152.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took of-

fice, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,967,217,887.84. We’ve added \$7,525,090,168,974.76 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States security policy in Europe.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of the insurance industry and insurance regulation.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine the resources and priorities of the U.S. Coast Guard.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine creating a more efficient and level playing field, focusing on audit and appeals issues in Medicare.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of medical innovation for patients.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine the proper role of judicial review in the federal regulatory process.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on aviation safety and general aviation.

SR-253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on biometric entry and exit at our ports of entry.

SD-342

APRIL 29

9 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Guard and Reserve.

SD-192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development

To hold hearings to examine opportunities for private investment in public infrastructure.

SD-538

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the King vs. Burwell Supreme Court case and congressional action that can be taken to protect small businesses and their employees.

SR-428A

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs

To clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

SD-628

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's High Risk List and the Veterans Health Administration.

SR-418

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States European Command programs and budget in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the National Institutes of Health.

SD-124

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and S. 858, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Land Management's final rule on hydraulic fracturing.

SD-366

MAY 5

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal government's role in wild-fire management, the impact of fires on communities, and potential improvements to be made in fire operations.

SD-366